

November 8, 2002
AGENDA ITEM #13

To: Delta Protection Commission

From: Margit Aramburu, Executive Director

Subject: Briefing on Sacramento River Corridor Planning Forum
(For Commission Information Only)

SPEAKER:

John Folk-Williams, California Center for Public Dispute Resolution,
Facilitator/Manager of the forum for nine sponsoring agencies.

PURPOSE OF THE FORUM:

The purpose of the Forum is to develop a Sacramento River Corridor Flood Management Plan that includes:

- 1) goals and policies for sound river corridor flood control management, including guidelines for riparian habitat protection, public access and recreation, and riverfront development;
- 2) permitting issues relating to encroachments within the floodway;
- 3) evaluation of the current condition of the floodway to accommodate existing and projected flood flow conveyance needs;
- 4) analyzing and managing cumulative impacts of river corridor projects of all types, including habitat enhancement; recreation facilities (docks, piers, marinas); bank protection/riprap; and commercial development (restaurants, hotels, etc.); and
- 5) reviewing opportunities to enhance the current flood control system.

The Forum will be a venue for collaboration in developing a Plan that is consistent with local, State and federal laws, regulations, ordinances and orders. It will not modify, restrict or assume the authority of participating agencies. The Forum will also serve as an ad-hoc body to review, discuss and provide informal feedback on proposed river corridor projects.

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE OF THE STUDY AREA:

The Forum is focused on the Sacramento River corridor extending from the Fremont Weir (Town of Verona) in the north to Courtland, Sacramento County, in the south. This stretch of river is a vital component of the Sacramento River flood control system and protects the most urbanized portions of the floodplain.

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND GROUPS:

In February 2002, the Reclamation Board and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) developed a draft MOU proposing to convene the Forum. In March, the MOU was endorsed by the State Reclamation Board, SAFCA, the Department of Water Resources, the Cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento and the Counties of Sacramento, Yolo and Sutter. These agencies are working in consultation with the US Army Corp of Engineers. Other groups and interested parties have been invited to participate, including the Delta Protection Commission (Executive Director).

CURRENT STATUS OF THE FORUM:

The Forum first met in August and now meets every other month and a Technical Team meets two weeks before each Forum Meeting. Three working groups have been convened: Land Use Planning, Flood Control and Public Safety, and Permitting and Policy.